



**Wednesday
December
22, 2010**

Weekly Views

Miami Correctional Facility staff came to the aid of one of their fellow staff members whose home was recently damaged in a fire by donating more than \$250. Officer Trlak and his family were displaced after the garage, kitchen and living room of the home were destroyed by the fire, and the family did not have insurance. The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund also provided assistance to the Trlak family in their time of need.

The IDOC donated \$10,172 to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Sportsman Benevolence Fund. The money was raised through offender and staff fundraisers throughout the Department. Almost half of the money, \$5572, was donated by Miami Correctional Facility's PLUS unit from a Krispy Kreme donut sale. The funds will be used to pay for processing approximately 200 deer taken by hunters during the 2010 deer season. The meat is then distributed to food banks throughout the state.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center donated gloves, hats, scarves and supplies to Mill Creek West Elementary School, located in Amo, Indiana (Hendricks County). Staff generously donated over 100 pairs of gloves, 60 winter hats, and many handmade scarves to less fortunate children. Staff also donated puzzles, coloring books and crayons, hand sanitizer and calculators in an effort to make the holidays a little brighter for these children and their families.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility PLUS program brought a little extra warmth to many sick children this holiday season by donating more than 300 hand knitted hats, scarves and toys to the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff participated in the annual Giving Tree project. This project allows staff to give back to their community by buying Christmas gifts for area school children. The four Parke County elementary schools participated by providing the names of 51 children from 21 families in need of assistance. Through the generosity of the Rockville Correctional Facility staff, all 51 children will have a Merry Christmas this year.

Putnamville Correctional Facility is sponsoring 43 underprivileged children from the Reelsville Elementary School, located just down the road from the facility. The names and wishes of these children were placed on a Christmas tree in the Administration building for staff to pick from. Staff delivered the presents to the school so they could be delivered anonymously to the children.

Plainfield Correctional Facility (PCF) donated \$1,237.18 to the Salvation Army after holding two successful fundraisers. The PCF PLUS Program held a pizza fundraiser and the A&O unit organized a cookie sale. The donation will help the Salvation Army provide emergency services for individuals needing assistance in Hendricks County.

Members of the Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry Team from Goshen, Indiana visited many of Indiana's correctional facilities to sing and spread their holiday cheer as well as passing out homemade cookies to both offenders and staff. Pendleton Correctional Facility, Indiana State Prison (ISP and ISO), New Castle Correctional Facility, and Miami Correctional Facility were all graced with their presence.

During the month of December, students from the English 9-1 class at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a project with children from a local elementary school. The children wrote "Letters to Santa" asking questions about reindeer, Santa, and the North Pole. The PNJCF students responded to the letters from the point of view of Santa Claus, attempting to answer some of the children's questions.

Offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison offenders enjoyed a special holiday meal provided by volunteers from the "Bridge to Home" organization sponsored by Linda Hirsch. Everyone enjoyed a full plate and endless dessert prepared by offender volunteers from Oakland City University.

Wabash Valley PLUS participants made 1,500 holiday cards, part of the Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes campaign, for Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's office. The cards are being shipped to soldiers that are away from home, either overseas or statewide, and unable to celebrate with friends and family.

PEN Product's IREF resident workers are being challenged in numerous ways to be better prepared for a successful return to the community, and learning to tie a good knot on a necktie can be quite challenging. PEN's Controller, Mark Spratt and Job Placement/Operations Manager Doug Evans, facilitated the first tie-tying class for several of the resident workers at the PEN's Central Office.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Parenting/Fatherhood Department held its Children's Center Christmas party. 14 offender dads and 20 children attended the event to celebrate Christmas together. A children's book was also given to each child through donations made from staff at Branchville.

27 students at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a gingerbread house decorating contest. The supplies were donated courtesy of the local Wal-Mart. Staff members voted on the student's creations and the winning teams won assorted treats.